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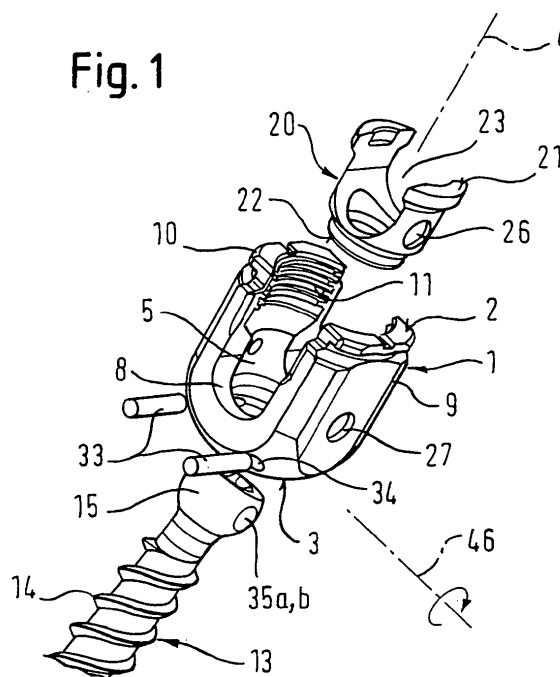
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(54) **Bone anchoring device**

(57) A bone anchoring device comprises a receiving part (1) for receiving a rod, the receiving part (1) having a first bore (5) coaxial with a longitudinal axis (4) and a second bore (6), an anchoring element (13) having a first end (14) for insertion into the bone and a second end (15) positionable within a second bore (6), the second end (15) having a spherically shaped surface portion (36). The bone anchoring device further has a locking device (33) provided to the second bore (6) of the receiv-

ing part (1), the locking device (33) protruding from an inner wall (7) of the second bore (6) and engaging with a recessed surface portion (35) of the second end (15) of the anchoring element (13), such that the anchoring element (13) is pivotable relative to the receiving part (1) around a single axis (46) of rotation. The locking device (33) may comprise pins inserted into through holes (34) formed in the receiving part, which engage with the recessed surface portion (35a-d) of the second end (15).

Fig. 1



Description

[0001] The invention relates to a bone anchoring device which comprises a receiving part for receiving a rod, an anchoring element having a first end for insertion into the bone and a second end held in the receiving part, and a locking device to limit a pivoting movement of the anchoring element to pivoting around a single axis.

[0002] Document US 2006/0155277 A1 discloses an anchoring element, which comprises a retaining means for receiving a rod, the retaining means having a ring-shaped mount, a fastening element for anchoring the device in the vertebra, and a securing element which can be screwed into a thread of the retaining means in order to fix the fastening element with an angle relative to the retaining means.

[0003] The fastening element comprises a threaded shank and a bearing, the latter being provided to achieve a pivotal motion when being supported by a separate intermediate element, which can be inserted into the ring-shaped mount of the retaining means. More specifically, the bearing includes spherical surfaces which engage with spherical counterparts of the intermediate element. The bearing further has two flat guiding surfaces formed on opposite sides thereof, which engage with respectively flat counter surfaces of the intermediate element.

[0004] The fastening element may perform a rotation movement around one single axis with respect to the intermediate element. However, the intermediate element can freely rotate within the mount around a longitudinal axis of the retaining means. Hence, a polyaxial adjustment of the fastening element relative to the retaining means is possible.

[0005] The final fixation is achieved by screwing the securing element into the thread of the retaining means after the rod is inserted. As a result thereof, pressure is exerted onto the rod, which transmits this pressure further to the intermediate element which then frictionally clamps the bearing. Thus, upon fixation by the securing element, the degree of free movement is reduced from polyaxial to fully rigid at the same time.

[0006] For certain applications it is desirable to have a bone anchoring device which allows an adjustment of the angle between the bone anchoring element and the receiving part in one single plane.

[0007] It is an object to provide such a bone anchoring device, which simplifies handling of an anchoring device and increases its stability against external forces once the device has been fixated using a fixation element.

[0008] The object is solved by a bone anchoring device comprising the combination of features according to appended claim 1. Advantageous aspects and embodiments are evident from the dependent claims.

[0009] The present bone anchoring device is arranged to reduce rotation of the anchoring element to rotation around one single axis prior to fixation. For this purpose, a locking device is provided at an inner wall of the receiving part which engages with the surface of the head of

the anchoring element in order to impede rotation around, e.g., a longitudinal axis of the receiving part. The locking device and the engaging surface are constructed such as to allow pivotal motion around one single axis, which in this example may be oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

[0010] As a result, there is only one axis of rotation upon installation of the anchoring devices and the rod. The handling during installation may thus be simplified. Limiting the pivotal movement of the anchoring devices with regard to the receiving part to just one single axis serves to simplify the handling of the parts of the anchoring device during application to the bones and increases the stability of the installed parts with respect to external forces.

[0011] Further features and advantages of the bone anchoring device will become apparent and will be best understood by reference of the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 1 shows a perspective exploded view of a bone anchoring device according to an embodiment prior to assembly;

Fig. 2 shows a perspective exploded view of the bone anchoring device according to Fig. 1, but after assembly (rod and fixation element still to be attached);

Fig. 3 shows a partly sectional view of the bone anchoring device according to the assembled state of Fig. 2, with a sectional plane defined by the longitudinal axis and the pivotal axis;

Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of an anchoring element;

Fig. 5 shows a top view onto a head of the anchoring element shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6a shows a side view of the anchoring element shown in Fig. 4 with the flat guiding surface portions seen in profile;

Fig. 6b same as Fig. 6a, but with flat guiding surface portions oriented towards observer (90 degrees rotated);

Figs. 7a-c show an alternative embodiment of a head with flat guiding surfaces being inclined with respect to an axis of the shank of the anchoring element;

Fig. 8 shows the arrangement of through holes in a cross-sectional profile through a horizontal plane labelled as 42 in Fig. 3, the

- plane containing the rotational axis;
- Fig. 9 shows an alternative embodiment of an arrangement of through holes;
- Figs. 10a, b show alternative embodiments of pins;
- Figs. 11a, b show an embodiment wherein the through holes are arranged in a longitudinal direction with respect to the receiving part;
- Figs. 12a, b show an embodiment wherein only one through hole is formed in the receiving part, (a) shows an exploded view, whereas (b) indicates a cross sectional profile in a horizontal plane with respect to the receiving part.

[0012] Figs. 1 to 3 show in a perspective view a first embodiment of a bone anchoring device, wherein Fig. 1 reveals a situation prior to assembly, Fig. 2 shows details after assembly, and Fig. 3 shows a partly cross sectional profile of the embodiment illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 without rod and fixation element.

[0013] The bone anchoring device includes a receiving part 1 which has a first end 2 and a second end 3 opposite to the first end. The two ends extend perpendicular to a longitudinal axis 4. Coaxially formed with the longitudinal axis 4, a bore 5 is provided which extends from the first end 2 to a predetermined distance from the second end 3. At the second end 3 an opening or second bore 6 is provided, the diameter of which is smaller than the diameter of the bore 5. The coaxial bore 5 tapers towards the opening 6 in a section 7 which can be for example spherically, conically or otherwise shaped.

[0014] The receiving part 1 further has a substantially U-shaped recess 8 which starts from the first end 2 and extends in the direction of the second end 3 to a predetermined distance from said second end 3. By means of the U-shaped recess 8 two free legs 9, 10 are formed extending towards the first end 2.

[0015] Adjacent to the first end 2, the receiving part 1 includes an internal thread 11 on said legs 9, 10. The U-shaped recess 8 serves for receiving a rod 12 by which several bone anchoring devices can be connected. A screw 30 cooperating with the internal thread is used as a fixation element. The U-shaped recess 8 further defines an axis 31 along which the rod 12 is oriented upon installation in the U-shaped recess 8. In this specific embodiment, axis 31 is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis 4.

[0016] The bone anchoring device further has a bone anchoring element 13 which includes a shank 14 with a bone thread and a head 15 at one end. It is noted that the shank 14 of the anchoring element 13 may not necessarily be threaded and may include other forms suited to apply the anchoring device.

[0017] As shown in more detail in Figs. 4 to 6, the head 15 has a spherical surface portion 16 with the center M (not shown) of a respective sphere 37 lying in the center of the head 15. The head 15 further has two substantially flat surface portions 35a, 35b recessed from an ideal sphere as defined by spherical surface portion 16. The flat surface portions are positioned on opposite sides of the head 15 and are oriented parallel to each other.

[0018] On the side opposite to the shank 14, the head 15 may include a flat surface 18. A recess 19 for engagement with a screwing-in tool can be provided in the flat surface 18. The head 15 rests in the section 7 of the receiving part 1 which thus forms a seat for the head 15.

[0019] A pressure element 20 is provided for acting onto the head 15. The pressure element 20 is substantially cylindrically-shaped and comprises a first end 21 and a second end 22. The outer diameter of the pressure element 20 is slightly smaller than the inner diameter of the bore 5 of the receiving part 1 so that the pressure element 20 can be inserted into the receiving part 1 and can slide within the bore 5. Adjacent to the first end 21 the pressure element 20 comprises a cylindrical segment-shaped recess 23, the size of which is such that the rod 12 fits to the recess 23.

[0020] Adjacent to the second end 22 the pressure element 20 includes a spherically shaped inner surface. The radius of the sphere corresponds to that of the head 15. The pressure element 20 further has a coaxial bore 28 for allowing access for a screwing-in tool to the recess 19 in the head 15. The pressure element 20 can further be secured against falling apart from the receiving part 1 once it has been inserted, or against rotation within the receiving part 1, for example by means of crimp bores 27 or means exerting a similar function. However, the bone anchoring device is not limited thereto.

[0021] The receiving part 1 according to this embodiment further includes two through holes 34 each receiving a pin 33. The diameter of the pins 33 corresponds to that of the through holes 34. The through holes 34 are located on opposite sides in the region of the seat 7 and traverse the body of receiving part 1. The through holes 34 also traverse an inner space as defined by the seat 7 of the receiving part 1, which becomes visible from a cross-sectional profile of a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis 4 as shown in Fig. 8. More specifically, the through holes 34 are open towards the inner wall of the seat 7 of the receiving part 1. Consequently, the diameter of the space defined by the seat 7 is reduced, when pins 33 are inserted into the through holes 34. In other words the pins 33 protrude from the inner surface of the seat 7 when residing within the through holes 34.

[0022] Once being inserted into the through holes 34 of the body of the receiving part 1, the pins 33 engage with the flat surface portions 35a, 35b of the head 15 of the anchoring element 13. As a result thereof, the head 15 cannot be rotated within a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis 4 due to the presence of the pins 33, as it is illustrated in Fig. 8. However, as the flat surfaces

35a, 35b serve as guiding surfaces, a pivotal motion around a rotation axis 46 as shown in Fig. 2 is retained.

[0023] In this embodiment, the U-shaped recess 8 is aligned with the direction of the through holes 34, such that the rotation axis 46 is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis 4 and to the rod axis 31. Accordingly, rotation of the anchoring element 13 is enabled in a plane defined by the longitudinal axis 4 and the axis 31 (see Fig. 2). It is noted, however, that it is also within the scope of the invention to orient the through holes (and thus the pins upon insertion) perpendicular to the rod axis. Rotation is then enabled in a plane perpendicular to the rod direction.

[0024] It becomes clear to the person skilled in the art, that any direction of the through holes 34 as formed in the receiving part 1 may be constructed according to the specific needs. Fig. 9 shows another embodiment, wherein multiple through holes 34a, 34b are formed perpendicular to and cross each other. The pin may be inserted either into through hole 34a, or alternatively into through hole 34b. Only one through hole 34a, b per direction is shown. Using the bone anchoring device according to this embodiment, the surgeon may in-situ decide which rotational axis is presently preferred to achieve stability.

[0025] According to a further embodiment illustrated in Figs. 7a-c, the orientation of the surface normal 41 of the flat guiding surfaces 35c, 35d is inclined with respect to a plane defined by the top surface 18 of the anchoring element 13. As a result inclined angles α of the threaded shafts 14 with respect to the longitudinal axis 4 of the receiving part 1 may be accomplished. A set of anchoring elements with different inclination angles $\alpha = 0^\circ, 5^\circ, 10^\circ, 15^\circ$, etc., respectively, may be supplied for example, from which the surgeon may choose according to the situation. It is noted that the rotation axis 46 is retained in this embodiment.

[0026] It is noted that the whole device including the pins is preferably made of a biocompatible material, for example titanium, titanium alloy or stainless steel, etc.

[0027] The bone anchoring device described in the present embodiments may be assembled upon the instance of actually carrying out surgery. However, the device may as well be preassembled. In such a preassembled condition, the anchoring element is screwed into the bone.

[0028] In the specific embodiments detailed herein pivoting within a single plane is accomplished by means of the pins 33 acting onto the flat guiding surfaces 35a-d of head 15, which allows pivoting around rotation axis 46, but prevents pivoting around other axes 4, 31. Therefore, an adjustment of the position of the receiving part 1 with respect to the anchoring element 13 within a plane that includes the rod axis is possible, whereas an adjustment in a direction perpendicular to the rod axis is blocked according to the present embodiments.

[0029] After adjustment of the position of the receiving part 1 the rod 12 is inserted and the inner screw 30 is screwed-in between the legs 9, 10 and tightened to exert

a pressure onto the rod 12. The rod 12 transmits the pressure to the pressure element, which itself exerts a pressure onto the head 15 to lock it in its final position.

[0030] Figs. 10a and 10b show an outline of alternative embodiments for the pins 33. In the previous embodiments, the pins 33a are shown to have a circular cross-section. The embodiment of Fig. 10a, however, illustrates that the same effect may be achieved using pins 33b having a semi-circular cross-section. As shown in Fig. 10b, a square or rectangular profiled pin 33c, 33e or an elliptical pin 33f, etc. are also possible. Preferred are cylindrical pins for the reason of easier manufacturing. However, flat shapes are also advantageous as these provide a particularly tight contact to the flat surfaces 35a, 35b.

[0031] With regard to a semi-circular pin 33d further illustrated in the bottom section of Fig. 10b, the respective through hole may be arranged such that the pins 33d only protrude from the inner surface of the bore 6 or tapered section 7, if the pin 33d is rotated within the bore of the through hole 34. A fixing means (not shown) may be actuated such that this position of the pin 33d within the through hole 34 is retained. An advantage arises as upon spinal surgery the pins may already be inserted prior to applying the anchoring element 13 to the bone. The surgeon merely has to actuate the pin 33d by rotating it within the through hole 34, when a reduction of pivoting movement is desired.

[0032] In an alternate embodiment, the fixation element 30 may be composed of an inner member and an outer member (not shown). The outer member is threaded for screwing it into internal thread 11 of the receiving part. A bottom surface of the outer member of the fixation element 30 then exerts a pressure force onto the pressure element 20 in order to fix the head 15. The inner member of the fixation element 30 may be screwed into a threaded bore within the outer member and interacts with the rod 12. It thus becomes possible to fix the rod 12 and the anchoring element 13 separately by means of the two members of the fixation element 30.

[0033] According to one embodiment pins may be inserted into through holes formed in the receiving part from externally such that the pins cross the spherical portion being used as a bearing for the head of the anchoring element and the pins engage with the recessed surface of the head. Accordingly, the surgeon may fix the degree of rotation depending on the situation. Without the pins, the anchoring element can be pivoted in any direction.

[0034] In a modification of the application the receiving part 1 can be used without the pins and with an anchoring element having a spherically shaped head. Hence, the surgeon can decide depending on the actual situation at the operation side whether a monoplanar or a polyaxial anchoring device is to be implanted using one and the same type of receiving part 1.

[0035] It is noted that the seat 7 of the receiving part 1 may also be of a conical or any other shape, wherein the same details of construction with regard to the locking

device and/or the pins may be applied as described above. Further, the locking device may alternatively be integrally formed with the inner surface of the second bore.

[0036] The pins 33 may be inserted into through-holes 34, which are oriented within a horizontal plane with regard to the receiving part 1 as shown, e.g., in Fig. 1. However, the invention is not restricted to that specific embodiment. An alternate embodiment shown in Fig. 11 indicates that the through holes 34 may equivalently be arranged in a longitudinal direction with respect to the receiving part 1. The pins 33 are then inserted into the through holes 34 from a bottom side of the receiving part. Other directions of the through holes 34 than horizontal or longitudinal are possible as well.

[0037] A further embodiment is shown in Fig. 12. According to this embodiment only one through hole 34 is provided to the receiving part 1. The supply of only one through hole and one pin to be inserted into the through hole may provide sufficient stability when locking the anchoring element 13. In this case, the head 15 of the anchoring element 13 may similarly be provided with only one flat surface 35a (Fig. 12b).

Claims

1. A bone anchoring device, comprising:

a receiving part (1) for receiving a rod, the receiving part (1) having a first bore (5) coaxial with a longitudinal axis (4) and a second bore (6); an anchoring element (13) having a first end (14) for insertion into the bone and a second end (15) positionable within the second bore (6), the second end (15) comprising a surface having a spherically shaped portion (36) and a portion (35a-d) recessed from the spherically shaped surface portion (36); a locking device (33) provided to the second bore (6) of the receiving part (1), the locking device (33) protruding from an inner surface (7) of the second bore (6) and engaging with the portion (35a-d) recessed from the spherically shaped surface portion (36) of the second end (15) of the anchoring element (13), such that the anchoring element (13) is pivotable relative to the receiving part (1) around a single axis (46) of rotation.

2. The bone anchoring device according to claim 1, wherein:

the receiving part (1) comprises a through hole (34), and
the locking device (33) is provided by at least one pin, that can be inserted into the through hole (34), wherein the pin protrudes from the

inner surface (7) of the second bore (6) upon insertion into the through hole (34).

3. The bone anchoring device according to claim 2, wherein the through hole (34) extends from a first opening formed in an outer surface of the receiving part (1) towards a second opening formed in the inner surface (7) of the second bore (6), such that the pin (33) protrudes out of the second opening in the inner surface (7) of the second bore (6).
4. The bone anchoring device according to claim 3, wherein the through hole (34) is arranged such that upon insertion the pin (33) tangentially engages with the recessed surface portion (35) of the second end (15) of the anchoring element (13).
5. The bone anchoring device according to one of claims 2 to 4 wherein two pins (33a, 33b) are provided for insertion into respective through holes (34) formed in the receiving part (1).
6. The bone anchoring device according to claim 1, wherein the locking device (33) is integrally formed with the receiving part (1).
7. The bone anchoring device according to one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the locking device (33) is arranged such that the single axis (46) of rotation is perpendicular relative to the longitudinal axis (4) of the receiving part (1).
8. The bone anchoring device according to one of claims 1 to 7, further comprising a pressure element (20), which is arranged between the second end (15) of the anchoring element (13) and the fixation element (30) for transmitting pressure to the second end (15) in order to lock the angular position of the anchoring element (13) by means of frictional force.
9. The bone anchoring device according to one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the recessed surface portion (35) of the second end (15) of the anchoring element (13) is substantially flat.
10. The bone anchoring device according to one of claims 1 to 9, wherein a fixation element (30) cooperates with the receiving part (1) to lock the anchoring element (13) relative to the receiving part (1).

Fig. 1

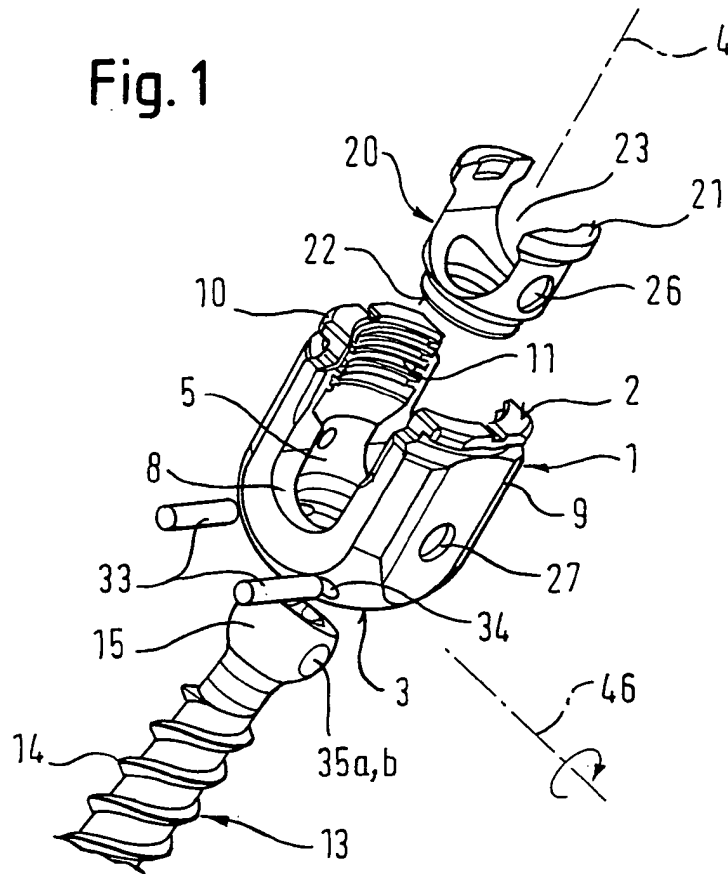


Fig. 2

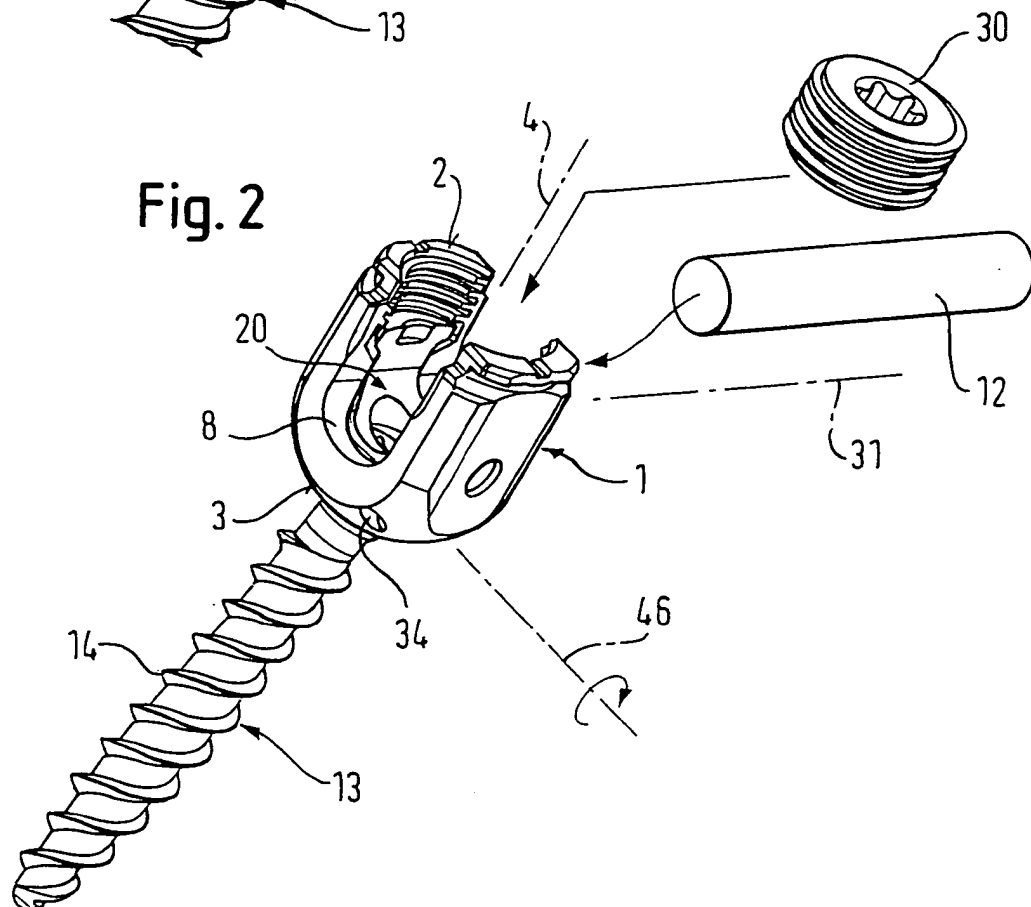


Fig. 3

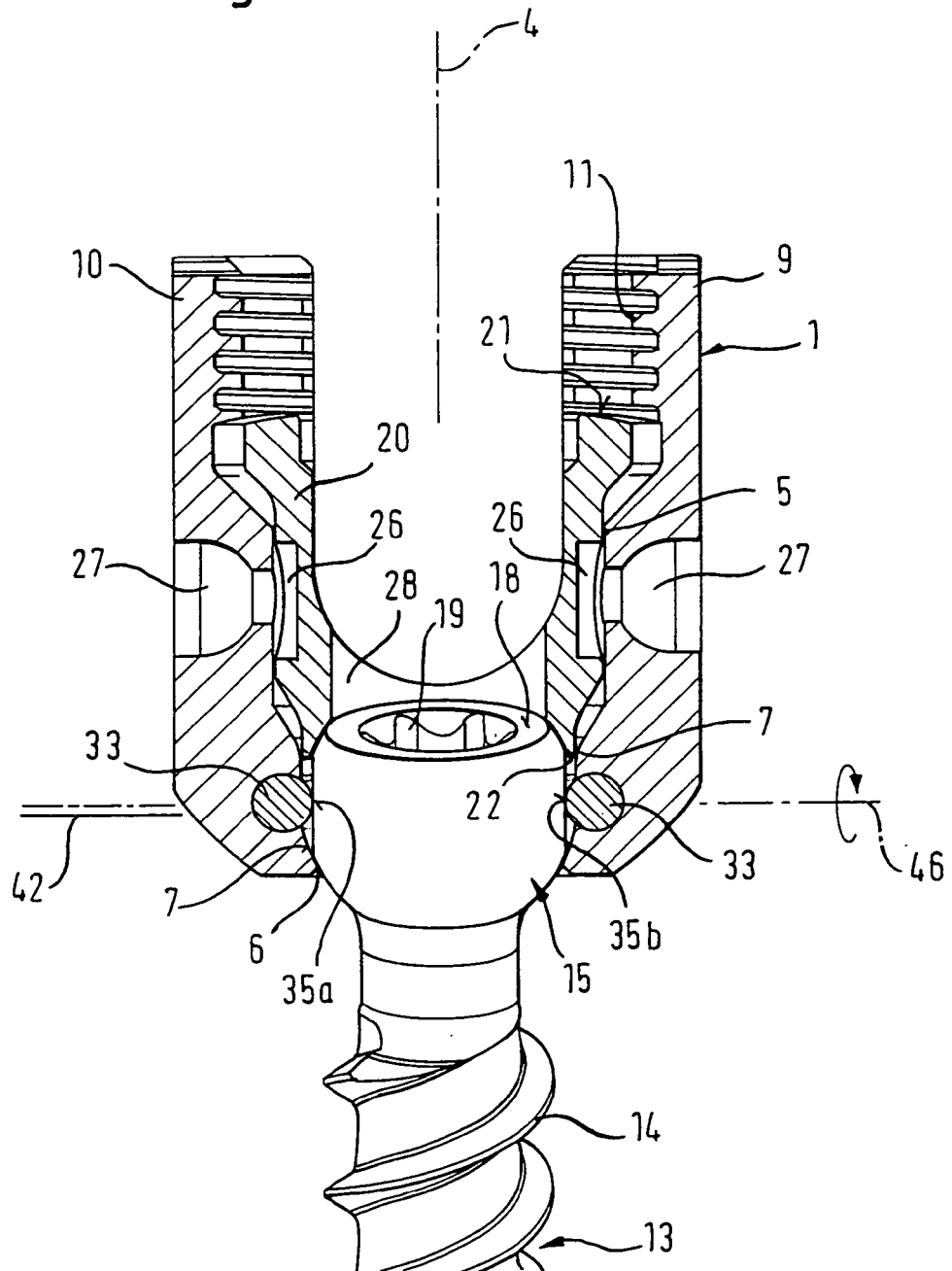


Fig. 4

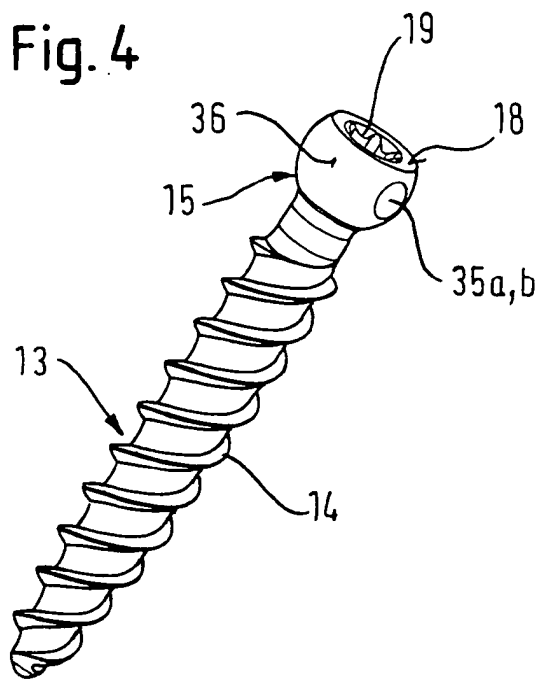


Fig. 5

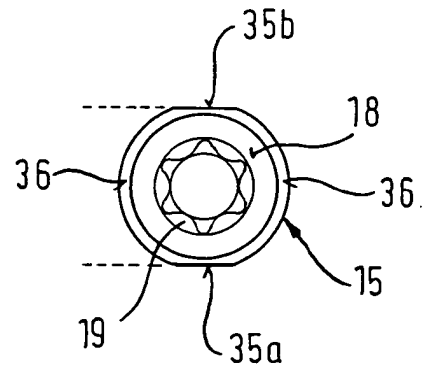


Fig. 6

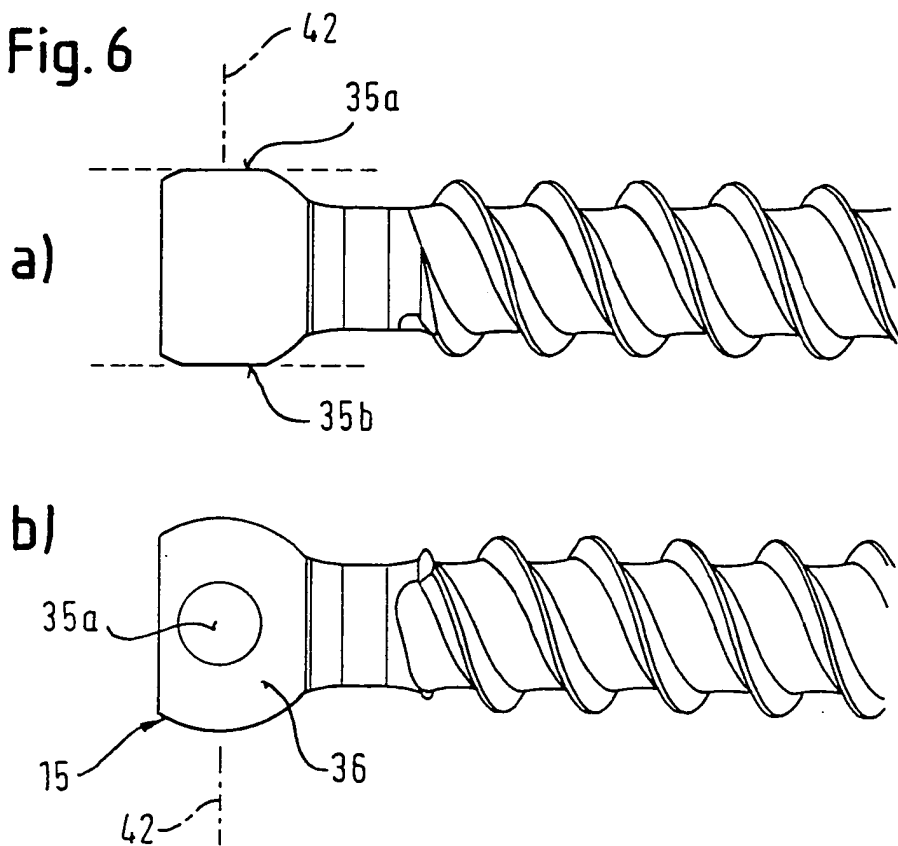


Fig. 7

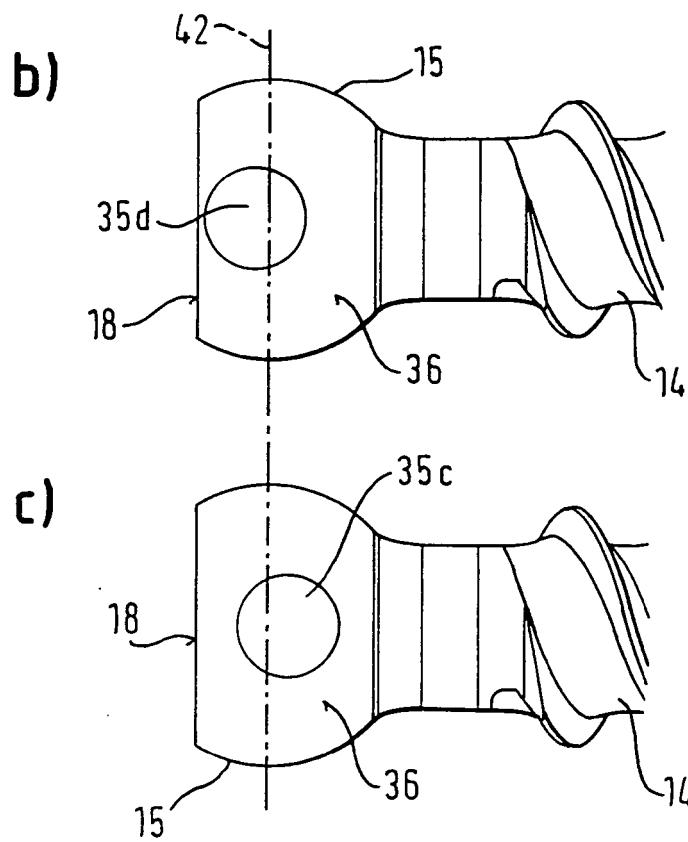
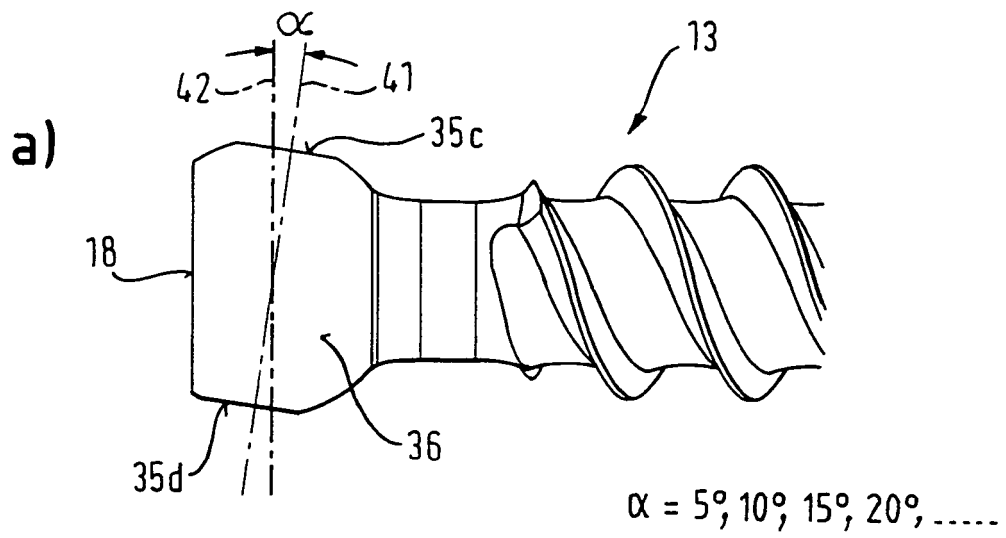


Fig. 8

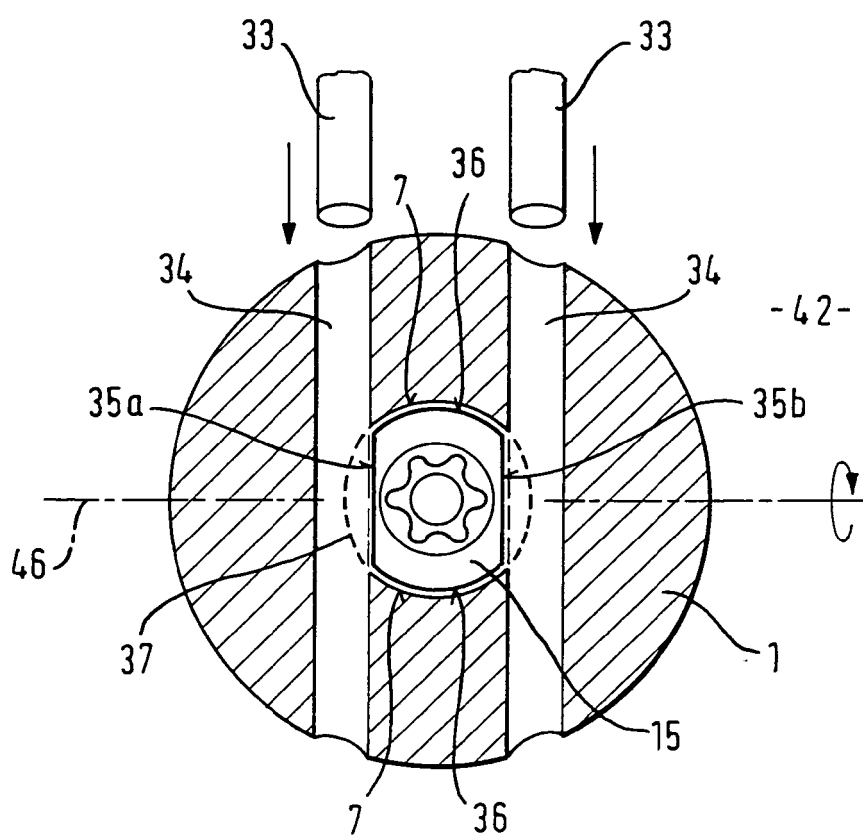


Fig. 9

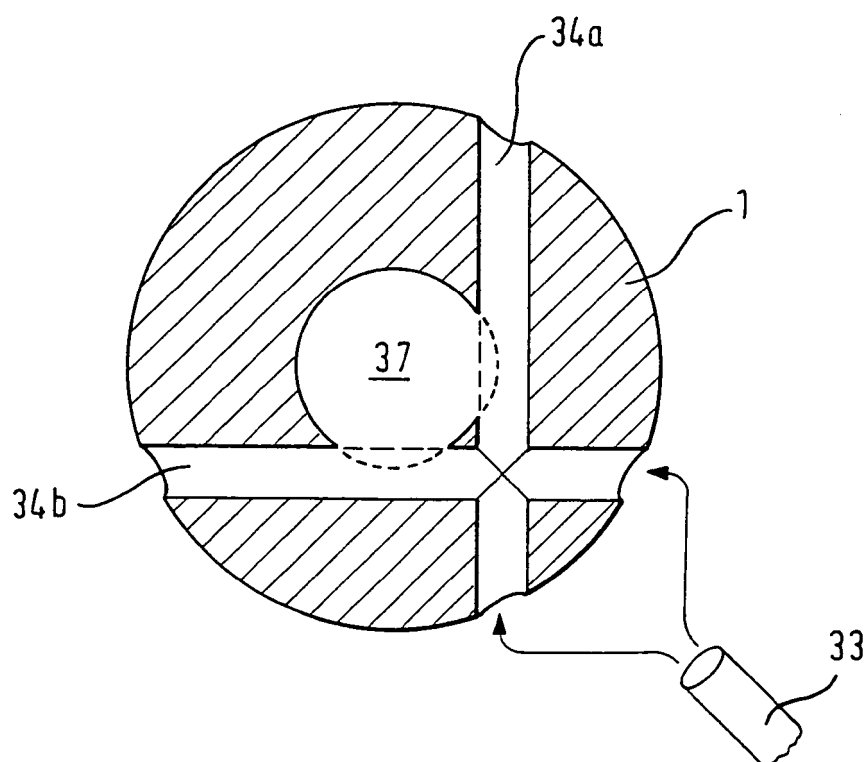


Fig. 10

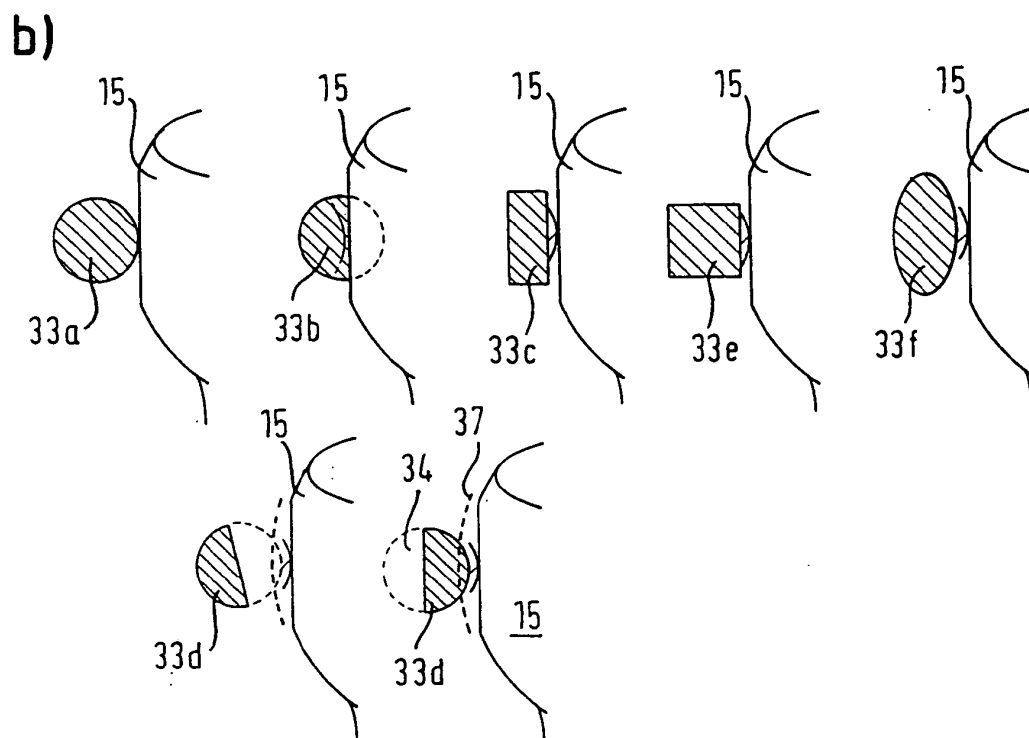
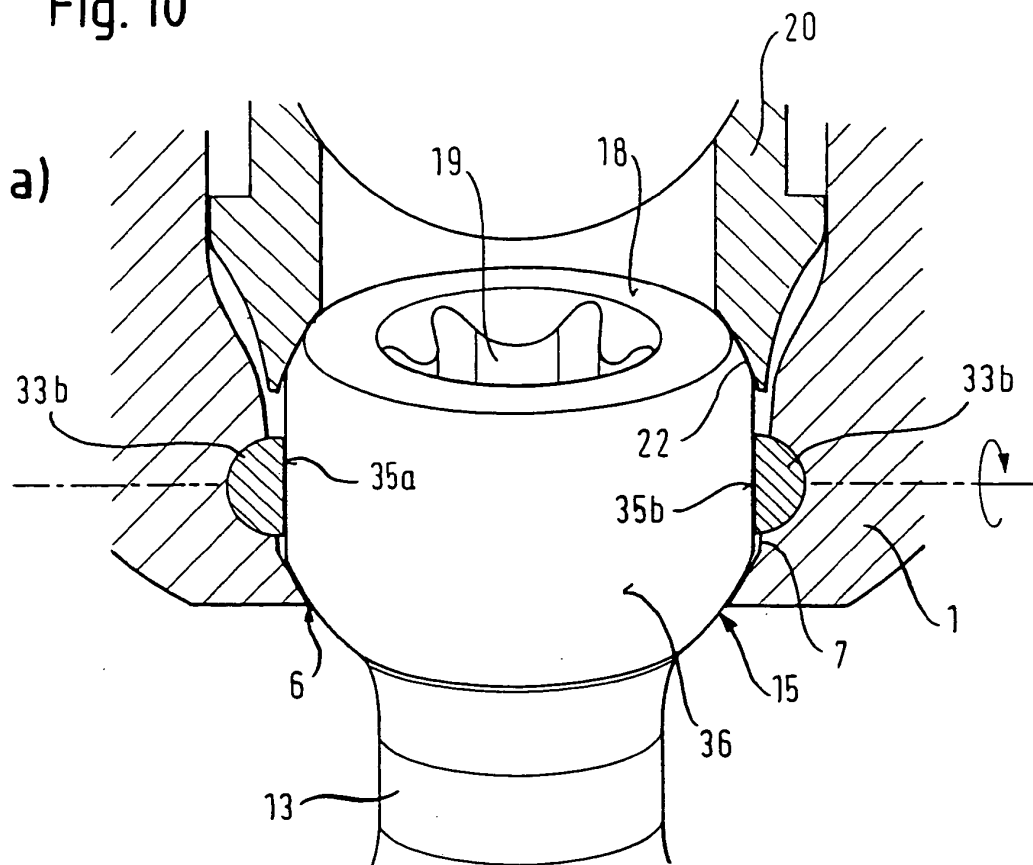


Fig. 11

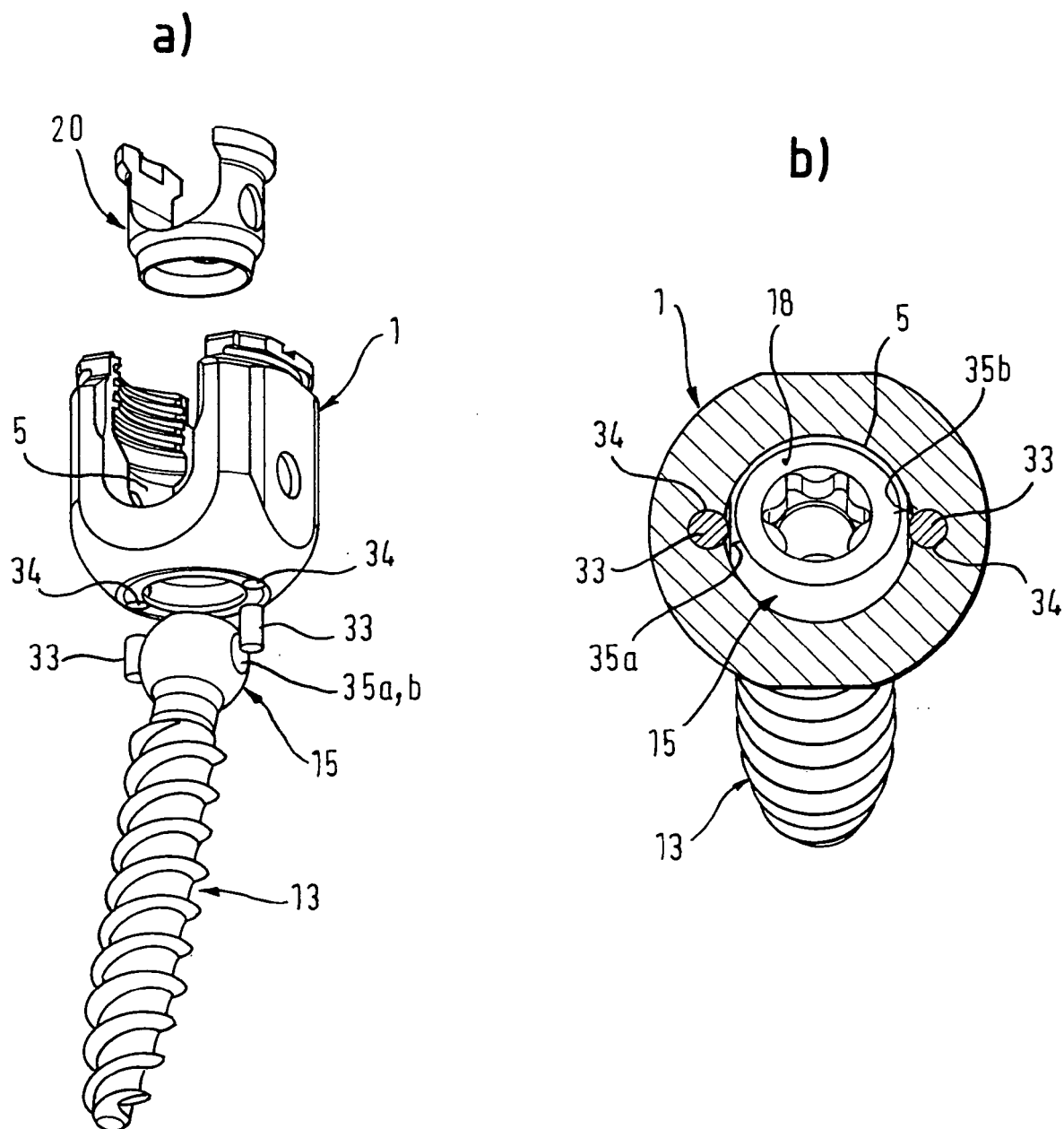
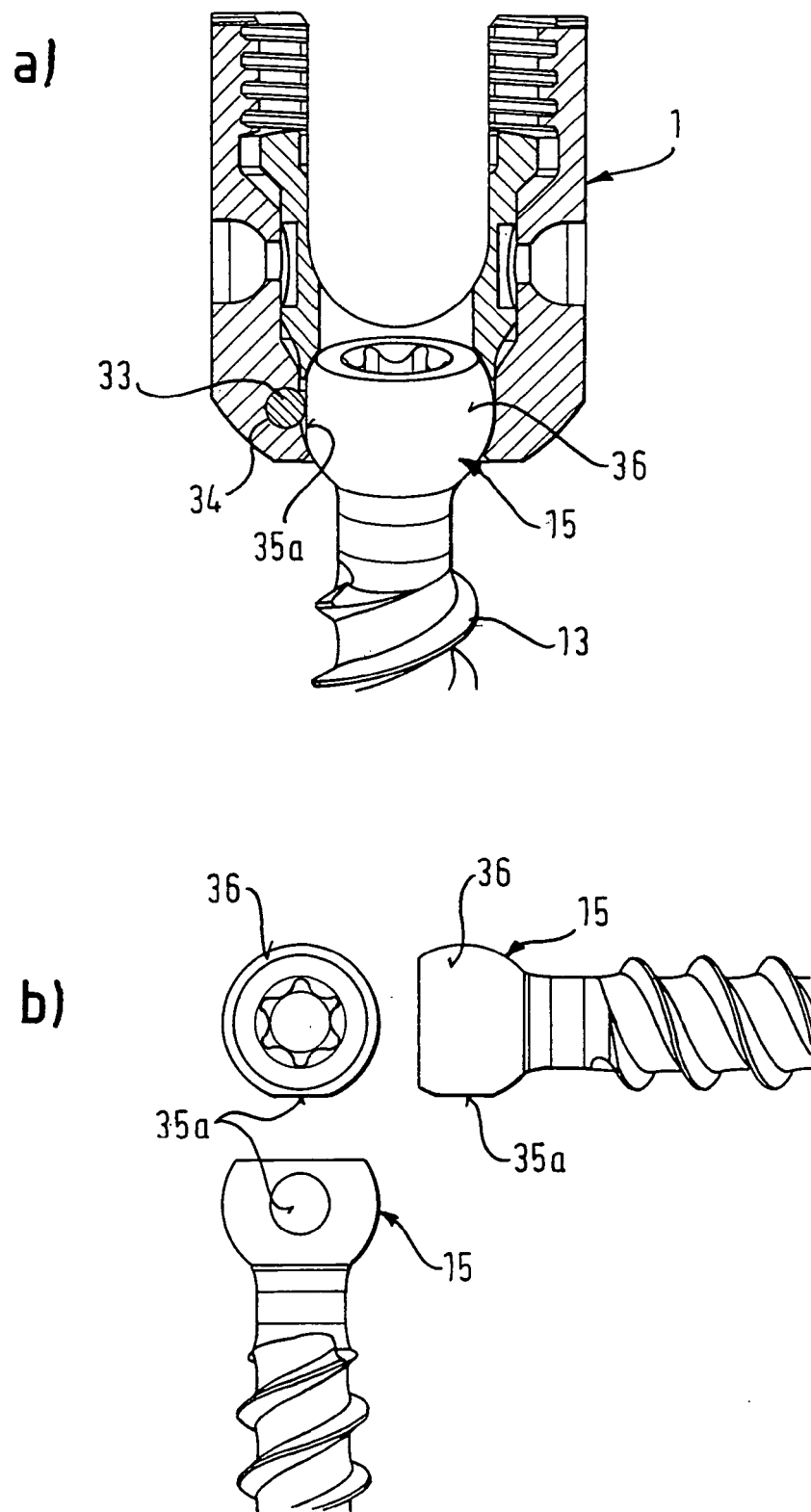


Fig. 12





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Berlin		Date of completion of the search 19 April 2007	Examiner Kakoullis, Marios
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 06 02 3910

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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